

following joint committees of Congress, to serve with the chairman of the Committee on House Administration:

Joint Committee of Congress on the Library: Mr. Boehner, Mr. Ehlers, Mr. Hoyer, and Mr. Davis of Florida.

Joint Committee on Printing: Mr. Boehner, Mr. Ney, Mr. Hoyer, and Mr. Fattah.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### ELECTION OF MEMBER TO CERTAIN STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, I offer a resolution (H. Res. 88) and ask unanimous consent for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 88

*Resolved*, That the following named Member be, and he is hereby, elected to the following standing committees of the House of Representatives:

Committee on Education and the Workforce: Mr. Isakson.

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure: Mr. Isakson.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 1999, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

#### CONDEMNING THE CUBAN DICTATORSHIP'S CRACKDOWN ON THE INTERNAL OPPOSITION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. DIAZ-BALART) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, in recent weeks the Cuban dictatorship has carried out a brutal crackdown of the brave internal opposition and independent press, taking Cuba's four best known internal opponents, Felix Bonne Carcasses, Marta Beatriz Roque Cabello, Vladimiro Roca Antunez, and Rene Gomez Manzano, to trial on trumped-up charges, and arresting scores of other peaceful opponents without cause or justification.

The internal opposition in Cuba is working intensely and valiantly to draw international attention to Cuba's deplorable human rights situation, and continues to strengthen and grow, despite the Stalinist repression, in its opposition to the Castro dictatorship.

At this time of extraordinary repression, the internal opposition requires

and deserves the firm and unwavering support and solidarity of the international community. The Cuban dictatorship's repressive crackdown against the brave internal opposition and the independent press must be condemned in the strongest possible terms.

□ 1515

The internal opposition and independent press of Cuba have our profound admiration and firm solidarity.

We must demand of the Cuban dictatorship the release of all political prisoners, the legalization of all political parties, labor unions and the press, and the scheduling of free and fair internationally supervised elections.

Mr. Speaker, I call on the government of Spain, of Prime Minister Aznar, to cancel the announced trip to Castro's Cuba of the King of Spain; and I call upon the member states of the Ibero-American summit to boycott the upcoming meeting that has been, incredibly, scheduled for November in the capital of the Cuban dictatorship.

Martin Luther King rightfully declared that an injustice anywhere is an affront to injustice everywhere. Going to Cuba to shake the Cuban tyrant's hand would be an ultimately immoral act. Now, more than ever, it is incumbent upon the entire international community to demonstrate firm solidarity with the oppressed people of Cuba and with the brave internal opposition.

According to press reports from Cuba, the following dissidents and journalists have been arrested by the Cuban dictatorship in the last few days:

Efren Martinez Pulgaron, Ana Maria Ortega Jimenez, Marisela Pompa, Angel Polanco, Odilia Collazo, Arnaldo Ramos, Lazaro Rodriguez, Jose Orlando Gonzalez Bridon, Lazaro Cala, Felix Perera, Oswaldo Paya Sardinias, Ofelia Nardo Cruz, Regis Iglesias, Angel Moya Acosta, Miriam Cantillo, Benigno Torralba, Ramon Alfonso William, Gisela Concepcion Bolanos, Marvin Hernandez Monzon, Jesus David Martinez Garcia, Julian Martinez Baez, Juan Francisco Monzon Oviedo, Nestor Rodriguez Lobaina, Ivan Hernandez Carrillo, Felix Navarro Rodriguez, Pedro H. Rojas, Leonel Morejon Almagro, Reinaldo Cosano Allen, Jesus Llanes Pelletier, Maria Menendez Villar, Oscar Elias Biscet, Rolando Munoz Yyobre, Miriam Cantillo, Omar Rodriguez Saludos, Diosdado Gonzalez Marrero, Ileana Somiellán Fleitas, Nanci Sotolongo, Odalys Curbelo, Juan Antonio Sanchez, Hector Cruz, Israel Bayon, Raul Rivero and Orlando Bordon.

There are certainly many others who have been arrested but who we have not been able to find out about as of yet.

Mr. Speaker, our admiration, our support, and our prayers go out to all

of these brave Cuban patriots and to all of the suffering and oppressed Cuban people.

#### TEXAS INDEPENDENCE DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SHIMKUS). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GREEN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today is a special day, particularly in Texas, because in Texas March 2 is Texas Independence Day. In 1836, 163 years ago today, the Republic of Texas was born. As I left Houston this morning, spring is coming to Texas. The bluebonnets are blooming, and we are actually seeing a lot of changes, and that is what has happened in Texas.

Mr. Speaker, let me set the stage for what happened 163 years ago. On March 1, 1836, 54 delegates representing settlements across Texas gathered for the Texas Convention of 1836 in a small farm village at Washington-on-the-Brazos.

From the beginning, it was an event marked by haste and urgency because Santa Anna's forces were closing in on the defenders of the Alamo. Within days it would fall, setting off a chain reaction of defeats for the small Texas Army, which would nevertheless emerge victorious at the battle of San Jacinto 6 weeks later on April 21. March 2 is when the delegates in Washington-on-the-Brazos actually drew up the Constitution and declared independence.

Mr. Speaker, what were these brave Texans fighting for? Up to this point, it was simply to restore the Mexican Constitution of 1824, which had been suspended by Santa Anna.

On the night of March 1, a group of five men stayed up late into the night drafting the document that would be approved the next day by the full convention, a document that echoes the lines of its American counterpart, the Texas Declaration of Independence.

It started off in much the same way, with the words, "When a government has ceased to protect the lives, liberty and property of the people." It spoke of the numerous injustices inflicted upon the settlers of the state of Coahuila y Tejas: the elimination of the state's legislative body, the denial of religious freedom, the elimination of the civil justice system, and the confiscation of firearms being the most intolerable, particularly in Texas.

Finally, it ended with the declaration that, because of the injustice of Santa Anna's tyrannical government, Texans were severing their connection with the Mexican nation and declaring themselves "a free, sovereign, and independent republic . . . fully invested with all the rights and attributes" that belong to independent nations; and a declaration that they "fearlessly and confidently" committed their decision